

Testimony for Public Hearing

Human Services Committee

March 12 2015

HB 6860 PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR  
EMPLOYABLE YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Raised Bill 6860, AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROJECT FOR EMPLOYABLE YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. Ädelbrook is a nonprofit that works, primarily, with children and young adults on the spectrum we are well aware of the need for transitional services to help these individuals secure jobs and become productive members of society. However, at Ädelbrook we see that this is a population that requires more than “minimal” coaching to be successful.

Ädelbrook believes that a collaboration between the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) and the Department of Developmental Services, Division of Autism Services for a “pilot” employment program for adults with ASD is a move in the right direction. At Ädelbrook we believe that no matter how severe the disability, there is always an ability. Sometimes it requires hard work, and more importantly the right kind of coaching to bring out these abilities. Offering extended assistance through DORS would be extremely beneficial to young adults with ASD, so they could learn the lay of the land in the workforce, and just as importantly, the workplace could learn that individuals strengths and find ways to bring those into the forefront.

Ädelbrook Transitional Academies work with individuals from 18-21, providing functional academics and one to one job coaching in the community. However, once they have completed our program, they have limited options for the next steps in maintaining successful employment.

Helping our young adults with ASD become gainfully employed is beneficial, to them, their families and ultimately the State of Connecticut. With a stable job, they build confidence, they become more independent and paying taxes through employment helps bring money back into the state.

This bill seems like a win – win for our kids and the state. Please support bill 6860.

*Ädelbrook is a multi-service agency specializing in behavioral and developmental services. We are dedicated to meeting the unique needs of families and individuals, of all ages, as they relate to intellectual/developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder. We provide short-term, long-term and respite residential programming for children and young adults. In-home and community-based services are customized from, as little as two hours a week, to round the clock staffing. Additionally we provide an educational continuum.*

Respectfully Submitted

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## Ädelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services